AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A roll for use in a galvanizing pot, comprising a hollow

body, and shaft portions connected to said body, said body being made of a silicon nitride

ceramic having thermal conductivity of 50 W/(m·K) or more at room temperature, said body

having an average surface roughness Ra of 1-20 μm, and said shaft portions being made of

ceramics,

wherein an inner surface of said body comprises large-diameter regions on both ~~sides~~ends

and a small-diameter region in between the large diameter regions~~center~~, and each of said shaft

portions is an integral hollow cylinder having a small-diameter portion, a large-diameter portion

and a flange ~~which is sandwiched by~~connecting said small-diameter portion and said large-

diameter portion~~, an inner diameter and an outer diameter of said flange slowly expand together~~,

said small-diameter portion and said large-diameter portion of each of said shaft portions have

approximately the same thickness, and the large-diameter region of said body is connected to the

large-diameter portion of said shaft portion.

2.   (withdrawn): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 1, wherein

said silicon nitride ceramic comprises 0.2% or less by weight of aluminum and 5% or less by

weight of oxygen.

3.   (withdrawn): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 1, wherein said silicon nitride ceramic has a relative density of 98% or more, and a 4-point bending strength of 700 MPa or more at room temperature.

4.   (withdrawn): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 1, wherein said silicon nitride ceramic has a coefficient R of 600 or more, said coefficient R being expressed by the formula of R = $\sigma c(1-v)$ /Eα, wherein σc represents a 4-point bending strength (MPa) at room temperature, v represents a Poisson's ratio at room temperature, E represents a Young's modulus (GPa) at room temperature, and α represents an average thermal expansion coefficient from room temperature to 800°C.

5.   (canceled).

6.   (previously presented): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 1, wherein each of said shaft portions is provided with pluralities of longitudinal grooves extending through said large-diameter portion and said flange, said grooves forming apertures communicating with the inside of said roll in a state where said shaft portions are connected to both end portions of said body.

7.   (previously presented): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 1, wherein each large-diameter region of said body is shrink-fit to the large-diameter portion of each shaft portion.

8.   (original): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 7, wherein the shrink-fitting ratio of each large-diameter region of said body to the large-diameter portion of each shaft portion is in a range of 0.01/1000 to 0.5/1000.

9.   (previously presented): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 7 , wherein a ratio of an inner diameter Sb of each small-diameter region of said body to an inner diameter Sa of each large-diameter region of the body is 0.9 or more and less than 1.0.

10.   (previously presented): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 7, wherein the large-diameter region of said body is longer than the large-diameter portion of said shaft portion, so that there is a gap between an end of each small-diameter region of said body and an inner end of said shaft portion.

11.   (previously presented): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 7, wherein a ratio of an effective length L_S to an outer diameter D_L of the large-diameter portion of each shaft portion is 0.5-2.0.

12.   (previously presented): The roll for use in a galvanizing pot according to claim 7, wherein a ratio of an outer diameter S_{out} of said body to an outer diameter D_S of the small-diameter portion of each shaft portion is 2-10.